FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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SENATOR GREGG CELEBRATES OPENING OF
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER IN DERRY
National Children's Alliance recognizes Senator for his support of child advocacy programs

DERRY, NH -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today joined Governor Craig Benson, Director of the Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County Kate Adler, and police chiefs from Rockingham County to help with the ceremonial ribbon-cutting to mark the opening of the Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County's Derry office. Child Advocacy Centers offer multi-disciplinary, child-focused programs for the investigation and prosecution of child abuse. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for the Department of Justice, Senator Gregg was instrumental in increasing funding for the National Children's Alliance and Child Advocacy Centers through the U.S. DOJ in Fiscal Year 2003 by $4 million to $11 million nationwide. This has lead to $70,000 in federal funds to the Rockingham County Center.

Senator Gregg stated, "The Rockingham County Child Advocacy Center has done a tremendous job serving the families of the Seacoast. Child abuse is reprehensible. However, the act of the abuse is sometimes just the beginning of the difficulty for children, who are frequently shifted from one agency to another to receive help. Child Advocacy Centers serve as clearinghouses to allow officials from law enforcement, the medical community and social services to work together and more effectively protect children from abuse, as well as meet the needs of those who have suffered from such abuse. I would like to congratulate the Center for the work they have already done and look forward to continue to working with them to ensure their mission and their service to New Hampshire families is expanded in the future."

Kathryn Adler, Director of the Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County, stated, "The road to a second center to better serve the children and families of western Rockingham County by providing services has a collaborative vision for the CACRC, area police chiefs, prosecutors, DCYF, and local community leaders. The CACRC is New Hampshire's first and only operating child advocacy center to date and is serving as the model program in a state-side initiative to bring similar programs to every county in the state. The CACRC Board of Directors and staff would like to sincerely thank Senator Gregg for his tremendous work and commitment on the federal level to assisting the expansion of the child advocacy center network in New Hampshire as well as centers nationwide."

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CAC's bring together law enforcement agencies, child protective services, and medical and mental health professionals to one location to investigate cases of severe child abuse. The Derry location is intended to complement the Child Advocacy's Portsmouth office to better serve the western portion of Rockingham County, which has provided no-cost support to 700 children and their families.

As the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for the Department of Justice, Senator Gregg has continued to aggressively fund the FBI's Innocent Images program and was instrumental in the creation of the "Cybertipline" (1-800-843-5678), a source for parents and kids to report on-line crimes against children. Senator Gregg was honored in 2002 by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children at its first annual "Hope Awards" dinner. NCMEC presented the Congressional Leadership Award to Senator Gregg for his continued support of programs designed to keep children safe. Since Fiscal Year 1998, Senator Gregg has secured $8.85 million for the Crimes Against Children Research Center and continues to be a strong supporter of the Task Force to investigate child-related Internet crimes.

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